THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Prime Minister in a statement in both the Houses of Parliament on 25 July, 1997 informed, interalia, that after his visit to Nagaland and other North-Eastern States, the Government's willingness to hold unconditional talks with the underground elements had been reiterated and that after talks with the Issac-Muivah group of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland, it has now been agreed to cease fire for 3 months with effect from 1st August, 1997 and embark upon political level discussions.

Reorganisation of Delhi and U.P

946. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for the reorganisation of Delhi and Uttar Pradesh in near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the area of Uttar Pradesh proposed to be merged in Delhi State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) No such proposal for reorganisation of Delhi and Uttar Pradesh by merging any area of Uttar Pradesh in Delhi is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Infiltration

947. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether lakhs of people infiltrate into the country every year;

(b) whether any annual survey is conducted or statement is prepared regarding the infiltration;

(c) whether any measures has been taken to reduce the burden due to arrival of infiltrators on the increasing population of India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) In view of the long land borders with neighbouring countries and due to various pull and push factors, infiltration into the country is an on-going problem. It is difficult to estimate the exact number of infiltrators because they enter surreptitiously and are able to mingle with the local population due to ethnic and linguistic similarities. A regular review is undertaken to monitor the situation on an on-going basis.

(c) and (d) A series of measures have been taken by the Government to detect and deport illegal migrants who manage to come into India. These include, interalia, creation of special posts under PIF/MTF Schemes in States on Indo-Bangladesh borders, amendment of IMDT Act in 1988 and IMDT Rules in 1997 to facilitate detection and deportation of illegal migrants in Assam, developing of an understanding with Bangladesh for handing over of illegal migrants etc. The progress of action taken is reviewed at various levels from time to time.

[English]

Robberies in Kerala Express

948. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of robberies in the Kerala Express during the last one year; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such robberies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime in trains is the responsibility of the Government Railway Police (G.R.P) which functions under the control of the respective State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Information relating to train-wise robberies is not maintained by the Central Government.

Conference of Governors

949. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :
SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two days Conference of Governors, Chief Ministers and other national political parties was held in June, 1997 at New Delhi;